

22 Santa Monica Mountains : A, B, C, D, E, F			
Criteria Letter	Criteria Description	Criteria Met	Reason SEA meets Criteria
A	The habitat of core populations of endangered or threatened plant or animal species.	Yes	The proposed SEA includes: core habitat of the plants federally endangered Braunton's milk-vetch, Lyon's pentachaeta, federally threatened Agoura Hills Dudleya, Santa Monica Mountains dudleya and marcescent dudleya, and the federally endangered fish Southern California steelhead and tidewater goby.
B	On a regional basis, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Upper La Sierra Canyon contains an unusually rich and diverse stand of canyon flora including marcescent dudleya, creek dogwood, and many unusually large specimens of other rare plant species; Malibu Lagoon is the only natural lagoon between Point Mugu in Ventura County and Anaheim Bay in Orange County; Malibu Canyon contains a unique mix of floral species uncommon in the region such as black cottonwood and leather leaf ash as well as a regionally unique mixture of inland and coastal species; regionally rare volcanic rock formations create unique communities where they occur.
C	Within Los Angeles County, biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution.	Yes	Malibu Lagoon is the only natural lagoon in Los Angeles County; upper La Sierra Canyon contains an unusually rich and diverse stand of canyon flora including marcescent dudleya, creek dogwood, and many unusually large specimens of other rare plant species; and Malibu Canyon contains a regionally unique mix of floral species uncommon in the County such as black cottonwood and leather leaf ash, as well as a unique mix of inland and coastal species.
D	Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting, migrating grounds and is limited in availability either regionally or in Los Angeles County.	Yes	The Malibu Lagoon and the upstream riparian woodland in Malibu Creek is an important migrating bird refuge with over 200 species recorded. Tuna and Pena Canyons are an important area to migratory birds due to their combined qualities of healthy vegetation, riparian woodland, surface moisture,

			undeveloped land, and an unobstructed opening to the coast. The SEA also contains habitat linkages between large open space areas within the SEA, areas outside the SEA, such as the Simi Hills, and the western extent of the Santa Monica Mountains in Ventura County. Such linkages are crucial in maintaining regional plant and animal population health and viability.
E	Biotic resources that are of scientific interest because they are either an extreme in physical/geographical limitations, or represent unusual variation in a population or community.	Yes	The proposed SEA includes: a myriad of unique and pristine natural areas important for nature study and scientific research; the range extremes of many species such as the California juniper, linear leaved goldenbush, <i>Calochortus venustus</i> , and valley oak; and disjunct and unique populations of island mountain-mahogany, lyre snake, mountain quail, hirsute rain-beetle, and the Jerusalem cricket.
F	Areas that would provide for the preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities in Los Angeles County.	Yes	Zuma Canyon is one of the last major drainages in the Santa Monica Mountains with a year-round stream that supports a rich riparian community, it remains in an undeveloped state; Cold Creek includes an excellent example of an undisturbed natural sandstone basin with springs and a perennial stream; Tuna and Pena Canyons are the last drainages in the central and eastern Santa Monica Mountains that have no development between the canyon mouth at the coast and upper areas of the watershed; Palo Comado and Chesebro Canyons support one of the last examples of an oak woodland savannah of any significant size in Los Angeles County; Temescal, Rustic, and Sullivan Canyons represent contiguous, self-contained watersheds that are large enough to support representative samples of native flora and fauna; the area surrounding Encino Reservoir supports the best undisturbed stand of an inland chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and streamside vegetation remaining on the inland slope of the Santa Monica Mountains.

